

What is claimed is:

1. ~~A system for weighing a patient in a bed, said system including:~~
a bed having a mattress with a known degree of flexure for given weights;
a flexible potentiometer mounted on top of said ~~bed~~ ^{mattress} having a resistance based on
a degree of flexure thereof; and
an electrical monitoring system for monitoring the resistance of the potentiometer
~~to indicate the weight of said patient.~~

2. The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim 1 also including:
a sheet of material; and
wherein said flexible potentiometer is adhered to said sheet of material.

3. The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim 2 also including:
a second flexible potentiometer adhered to said sheet of material to enable
weighing said patient without regard to the position of said patient in said bed.

4. ~~The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim 1 also including:~~
circuitry connected to a separate device for providing a signal indicative of the
resistance of the potentiometer device.

5. The system for weighing a patient in a ~~bed~~ ^{mattress} as described in claim 4 when said
~~separate~~ ^{medical} device is a medicine-dispensing machine.

6. The system for weighing a patient in a ~~bed~~ ^{mattress} as described in claim 4 when said
~~separate~~ ^{medical} device is a dialysis machine.

7. The system for weighing a patient in a ~~bed~~ ^{mattress} as described in claim 4 when said
~~separate~~ ^{medical} device is an intravenous fluid-dispensing machine.

8. ~~The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim 1 when said~~

~~signal is used in the calculation of ^Bparameters critical to a patient's care.~~

9. ~~The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim 4 also including:
a sheet of material; and ^B~~

~~wherein said flexible potentiometer is adhered to said sheet of material.~~

- 5 ⁷10. The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim ⁴ also including:
a second flexible potentiometer adhered to said sheet of material to enable
weighing said patient without regard to the position of said patient in said bed.

- ⁸11. The system for weighing a patient in a bed as described in claim 2 in which said
material is a plastic.

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